

3 January 1973

The Honorable James W. Symington

Dear Jim,

Written prose is a poor vehicle for conveying states of feeling or emotion, but I did want to express in writing what I hope you knew without my ever setting pen to paper -- namely how shocked and distressed I was to hear of your mother's sudden death. I am not sure I ever had the pleasure of meeting her, but from the public record and, even more, from the warm, affectionate comments about her made to me over the years by you, your brother and your father, I know what a wonderful and remarkable woman she must have been. Also, my close relationship to my own mother gives me at least a partial insight into the poignant sense of loss, with all its other attendant emotions, that your entire family must feel.

Anyone's death is of course a tragedy and saddening loss to those bound to the departed by ties of friendship, esteem and, especially, fond family relationship. Doubly so when the death is sudden and from a cause that could not have been anticipated. As I am sure you know far better than I, however, your mother's life was full, rich and rewarding -- especially in the pride and joy she must have taken in her husband and their two outstanding sons.

It goes without saying that if there is anything at all Ruth or I can do, you have only to call. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with you at this time. They are, of course, also with Tim and your father, to whom I would appreciate your conveying our warm and sympathetic regards.

As always,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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